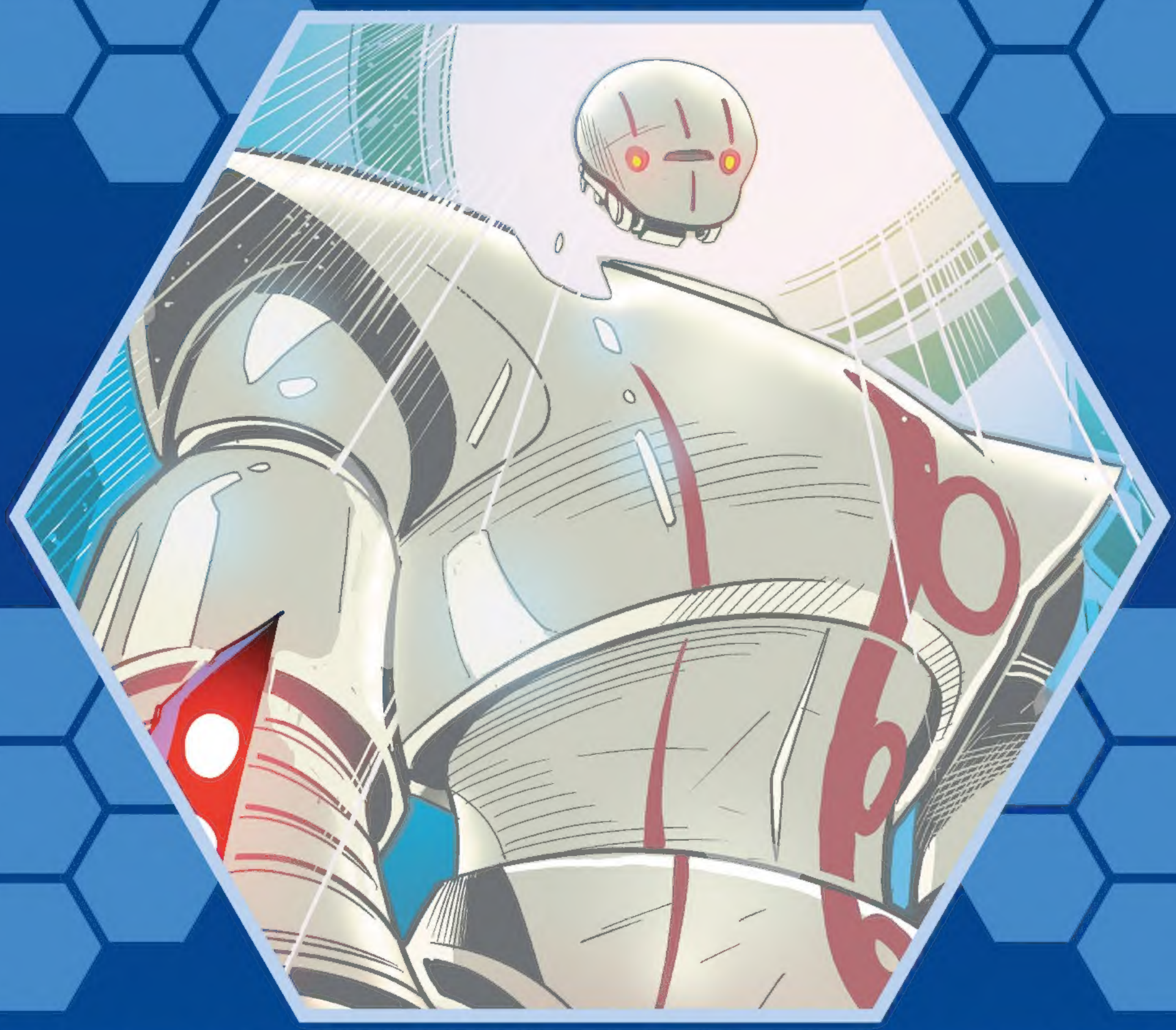
ROYALS
MEDUSA & MAXIMUS VS.
THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS!
006
EWING
LIBRANDA
VILLARRUBIA
MARVEL

EXPERIMENTED UPON LONG AGO BY ALIENS KNOWN AS THE KREE, *THE INHUMANS* ARE A RACE OF SUPER-BEINGS WHO CAN UNLOCK AMAZING ABILITIES VIA THE MYSTERIOUS ELEMENT *TERRIGEN*.

BUT AFTER LEARNING THAT TERRIGEN WAS POISONING EARTH'S MUTANT POPULATION, THE QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS, *MEDUSA*, DESTROYED ALL TRACES OF IT, MEANING THERE WILL BE NO MORE NEW INHUMANS. HEAVY WITH GUILT, MEDUSA ABDICATED THE THRONE—LEAVING THE INHUMANS WITHOUT THEIR ROYAL FAMILY.

BUT IF THE ROYALS CAN NO LONGER RULE INHUMANITY...THEY CAN STILL SAVE IT.

ROYALS



MARVEL BOY CLAIMED THERE WAS A SECRET BURIED IN THE REMAINS OF HALA, THE KREE HOMEWORLD, WHICH COULD RESTORE THE FUTURE OF THE INHUMAN RACE. THE ROYAL FAMILY AND A COUPLE OF NEW INHUMANS JOURNEYED THERE WITH HIM. ALONG THE WAY, MEDUSA REVEALED SHE IS DYING FROM A MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS.

THE ROYALS FOUND SOMEONE HAUNTING DEAD HALA: RONAN, FORMER SUPREME ACCUSER OF THE KREE EMPIRE AND CRYSTAL'S EX-HUSBAND. HE TRAPPED THEM IN FALSE REALITIES TO FACE THEIR DARKEST FEARS, BUT THEY ESCAPED, AND MARVEL BOY EXECUTED HIS TRUE PLAN: TO PLANT THE SEED OF THE PLEX, THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE AND LEADER OF THE KREE FROM MARVEL BOY'S HOME DIMENSION, IN THE HOPES THAT IT WILL LEAD THE KREE INTO A NEW AGE.

THE PLEX REVEALED THE NEXT STEP IN THE ROYALS' JOURNEY: BEFORE THE KREE BEGAN THE EXPERIMENTS THAT CREATED THE INHUMANS, BEFORE THEY MADE TERRIGEN, THERE WAS PRIMAGEN—THE MATERIAL THAT CREATED THE KREE THEMSELVES. TO FIND IT AND ITS PROGENITORS, THE ROYALS MUST TRACK THE ORIGIN OF THE SKYSPEARS, STRANGE, DEADLY OBELISKS THAT LANDED ON EARTH MONTHS AGO.

THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, THE LAST INHUMAN, A WORN MAXIMUS THE MAD, HAS WOKEN A DIFFERENT ACCUSER—AN OLDER NOH-VARR—TO FACE A TERRIBLE THREAT.

THE PROGENITORS ARE RETURNING.

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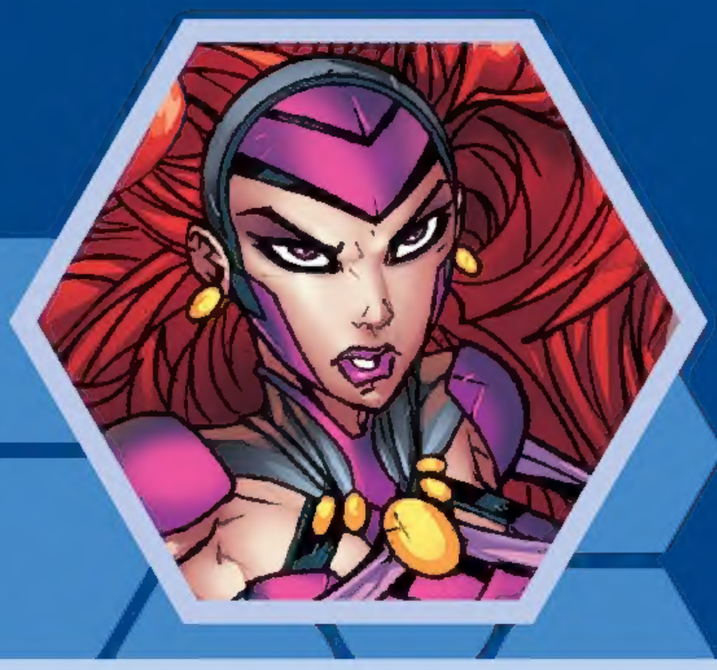

MEDUSA

Wife of Black Bolt. Her hair is stronger than steel—and entirely under her control.

MAXIMUS

Brother of Black Bolt. Super-genius and mind-controller. Completely insane.

CRYSTAL

Sister of Medusa. She has total control over air, earth, fire, and water.

GORGON

Cousin of Black Bolt. One stomp of his hooves makes the earth tremble.

SWAIN

A new Inhuman. She can push emotions and opinions in her favor.

MARVEL BOY

Kree explorer from another dimension. Engineered with insect traits for combat superiority.

FLINT

A new Inhuman. Rock and stone obey his thoughts—the bigger, the better.

The Strangers Came Today

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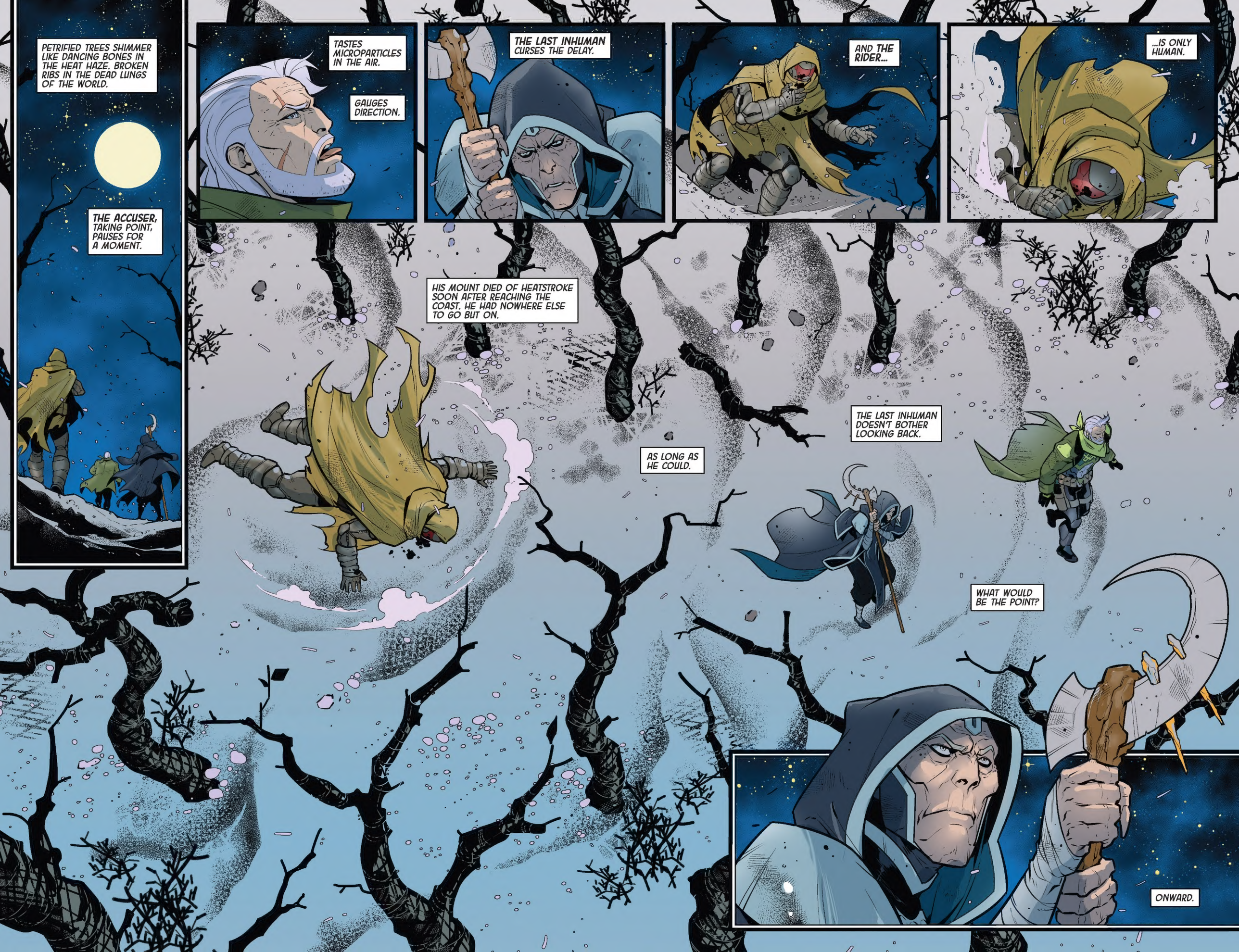

PETRIFIED TREES SHIMMER LIKE DANCING BONES IN THE HEAT HAZE. BROKEN RIBS IN THE DEAD LUNGS OF THE WORLD.
THE ACCUSER, TAKING POINT, PAUSES FOR A MOMENT.
TASTES MICROPARTICLES IN THE AIR.
GAUGES DIRECTION.
THE LAST INHUMAN CURSES THE DELAY.
AND THE RIDER...
...IS ONLY HUMAN.
HIS MOUNT DIED OF HEATSTROKE SOON AFTER REACHING THE COAST. HE HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO BUT ON.
AS LONG AS HE COULD.
THE LAST INHUMAN DOESN'T BOTHER LOOKING BACK.
WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?
ONWARD.

EVER ONWARD.

NOW. THE DEAD PLANET HALA.

WELL--→KHAFF←--YOU'RE THE *PILOT*, SWAIN.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

HONESTLY?

TWO HOURS AGO, I WAS *CRYING*.

THE *ASTARION* WAS *JUNK*, MEDUSA. SHE'D HAD A *WING* TORN OFF--SHE WAS NEVER GOING TO FLY AGAIN. I WAS WONDERING HOW TO *TELL* YOU.

THEN THE *PLEX INTELLIGENCE* OFFERED ITS *REPAIR SYSTEMS*, AND...TAKE A *LOOK*. I THINK THE NEW WING MIGHT BE *BETTER* THAN THE OLD ONE.

THAT'S A GIANT GREEN WORLD-RULING BLOB I CAN *GET* BEHIND.

PERHAPS. I STILL REMEMBER THE *LAST* ONE.

WARM THE *ENGINES*, CAPTAIN...

"...WE'LL LEAVE ONCE WE'VE SAID OUR *GOODBYES.*"

RONAN?

YOU'VE TIDIED UP.

LISTEN, WE'RE READY TO *LEAVE*... AND...

YES. THE PLEX HAS *INFORMED* ME, CRYSTAL.

GO WHENEVER YOU WISH.

...I *DON'T* WISH.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS, RONAN. AND...I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE *YOU.*

WE WERE *HUSBAND AND WIFE.*

I *LOVED* YOU.

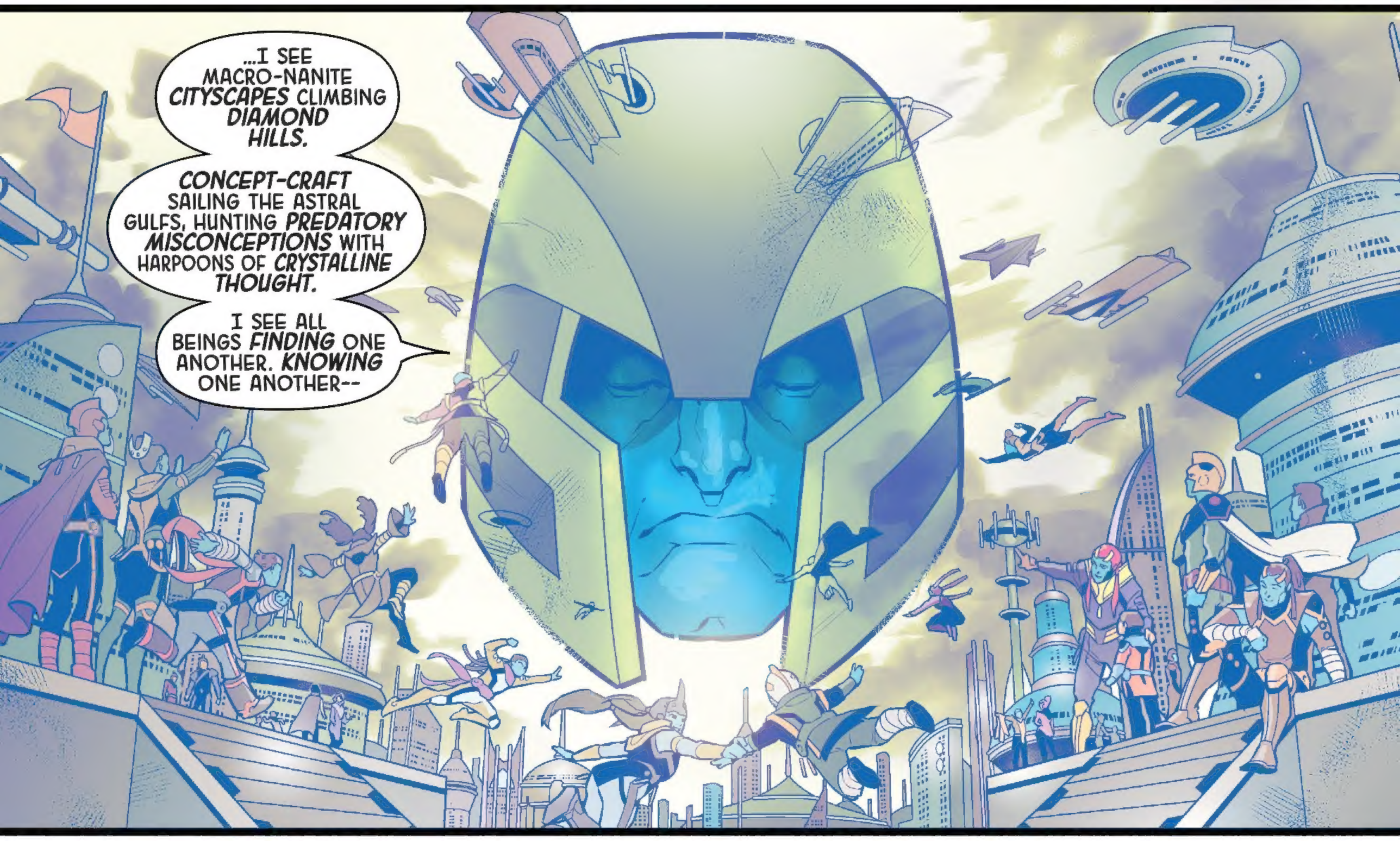
AND I CAN'T HELP THINKING...ALL THIS TIME, WHILE YOU WERE *ALONE* HERE, COUNTING YOUR *DEAD*--BLAMING EVERYONE, BLAMING *YOURSELF*, GOING *MAD*--

--WHAT IF I'D *BEEN* THERE? WHAT IF... WHAT IF I'D COME TO *FIND* YOU?

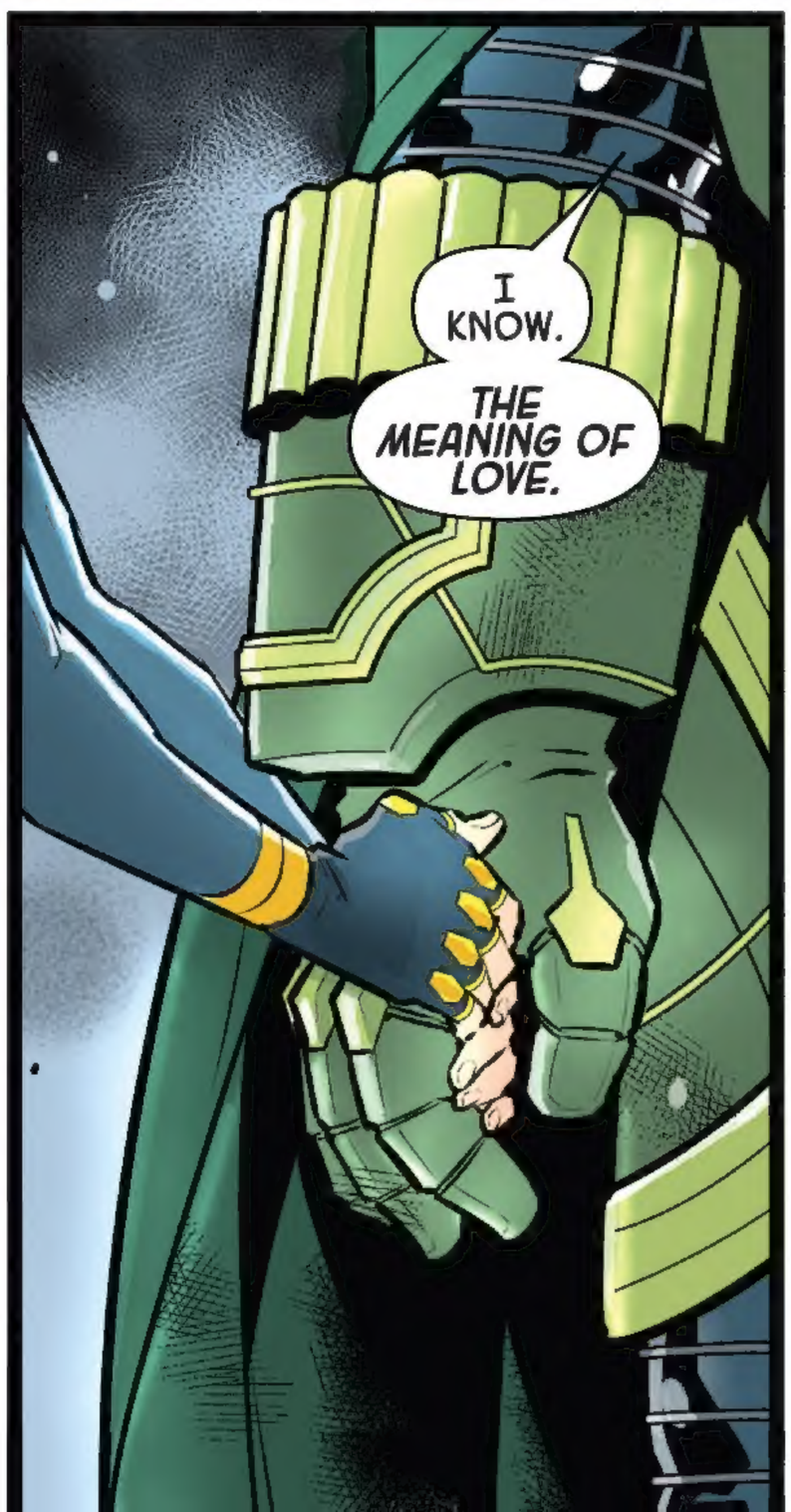
I SHOULD HAVE COME TO FIND YOU.

I'M SORRY.

...
THE PLEX INTELLIGENCE SPEAKS TO ME NOW, CRYSTAL. AS IT DOES TO NOH-VARR.
I AM ALONE NO LONGER...AND WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES...

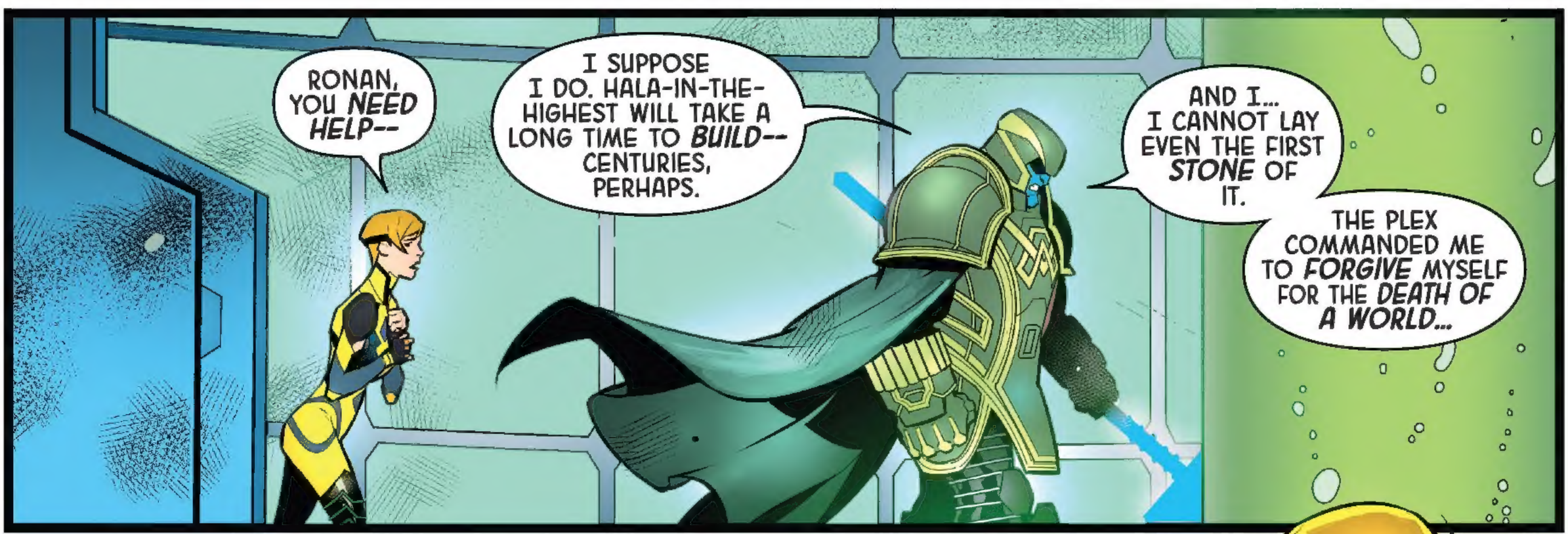

...I SEE MACRO-NANITE CITYSCAPES CLIMBING DIAMOND HILLS.
CONCEPT-CRAFT SAILING THE ASTRAL GULFS, HUNTING PREDATORY MISCONCEPTIONS WITH HARPOONS OF CRYSTALLINE THOUGHT.
I SEE ALL BEINGS FINDING ONE ANOTHER. KNOWING ONE ANOTHER--

--KNOWING OURSELVES.
I SEE HALA-IN-THE-HIGHEST, THE SHINING CITY OF UNDERSTANDING. THE JEWEL OF ALL REALITIES.
I SEE...I KNOW...


I KNOW.
THE MEANING OF LOVE.

AND THEN I OPEN MY EYES.
AND ALL I SEE ARE CORPSES.

RONAN--
BEFORE, YOU COULD NOT COME-- BECAUSE YOUR PEOPLE NEEDED YOU MORE.
THEY STILL NEED YOU MORE. YOU HAVE YOUR DUTY...
...I HAVE MINE.


RONAN, YOU NEED HELP--
I SUPPOSE I DO. HALA-IN-THE-HIGHEST WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO BUILD-- CENTURIES, PERHAPS.
AND I... I CANNOT LAY EVEN THE FIRST STONE OF IT.
THE PLEX COMMANDED ME TO FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THE DEATH OF A WORLD...

...BUT I CANNOT.
I CANNOT FORGIVE ANY OF US.
THE BURDEN IS TOO HEAVY, MY LOVE...

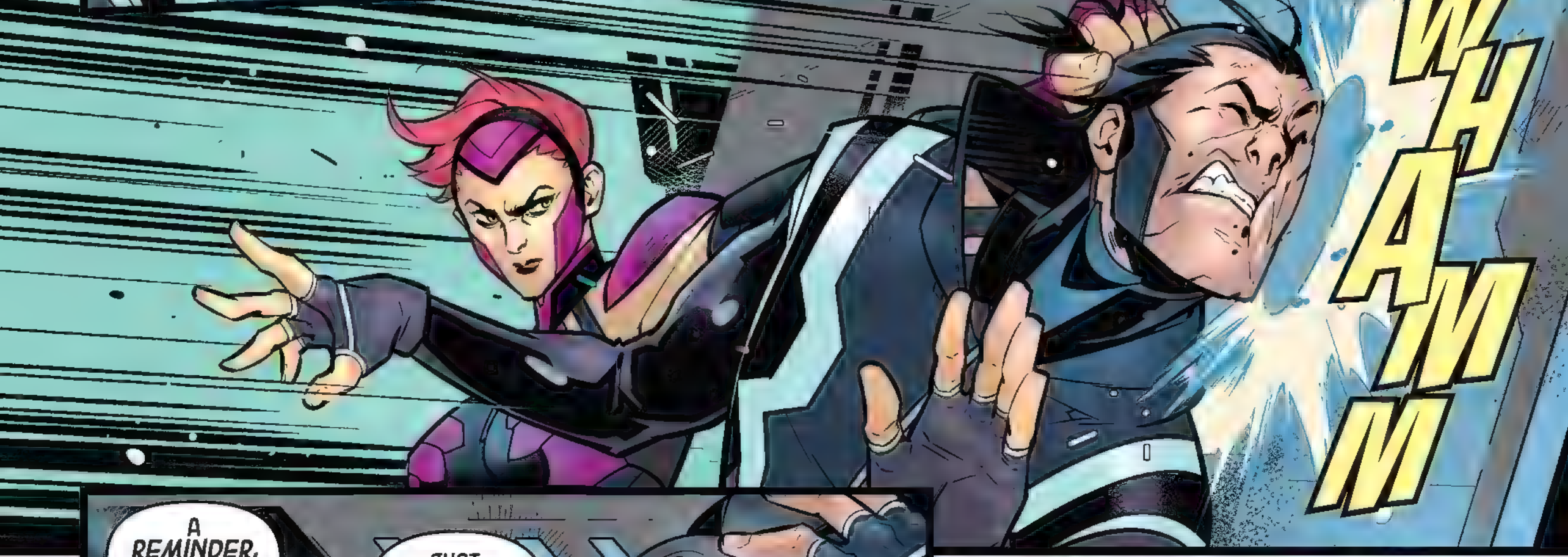
...AND YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE.
PLEASE.
JUST GO.

PRINCESS CRYSTAL?
ARE YOU OKAY?
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THAT VIEWSCREEN FOR A WHILE NOW...
I'M FINE, JOVANNA.
JUST... WATCHING HALA.
WATCHING IT LEAVE...
OH, BOOOO-HOO!
"WOE IS MEEE, I LOST YET ANOTHER HUSBAND..."
YOU KNOW, COUSIN, EVENTUALLY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THE COMMON FACTOR IS YOU.
MAXIMUS...
STOP GROWLING, GORGON. NOT ALL OF US GET TO HAVE ENDLESS STRINGS OF DOOMED INTERSPECIES ROMANCES, YOU KNOW.
HOW DO YOU THINK SWAIN FEELS, LISTENING TO YOUR DRIVEL?
HEY, DON'T BRING ME INTO THIS...

WHY NOT? I MEAN, LET'S NOT PRETEND YOU'RE A HAPPY BUNNY RIGHT NOW.
ALL THOSE MILLIONS OF LIGHT-YEARS FROM THE WOMAN YOU... SORRY, IS IT LOVE?

OR JUST SETTLING?
AFTER ALL, WITH YOUR POWER, WOULD ANY LOVE BE--

--REAL--?


WHAMM

A REMINDER, BROTHER-IN-LAW.
I DON'T NEED MY HAIR TO HURT YOU.
JUST EXPRESSING AN OPINION, COMMANDER MEDUSA.
SORRY-- OW!--IF YOU WERE OFFENDED...

I SEE. WELL, THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR MISSION IS DIPLOMATIC, MAXIMUS.
SO YOU'LL BE PUTTING YOUR FAMOUS CHARM TO WORK FOR ME...

"....AND I GUARANTEE YOU WON'T *LIKE* IT."

CENTAURI-IV.
THE GREAT CITY OF NOVAHALA, ON THE CONTINENT OF AKUUNOS. NEW HOME OF THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS.

WE ARE *KIN*, WE FIVE.

OOLA UDONTA.
MATRIARCH OF THE INCENTAURIANS.

NOT KIN BY *BLOOD.*

ALADI KO EKE.
QUEEN OF THE BADOON FIFTH CASTE.

NOR KIN BY *CHOICE.*

ONOMI WHITEMANE.
FIRST CHAIR OF THE KYMELLIAN WHITE ROOM.

BUT KIN BY *SHARED DESTINY.*

AVOE.
GODDESS OF THE DIREST WRAITHS.

BY SHARED *PROPHECY.*

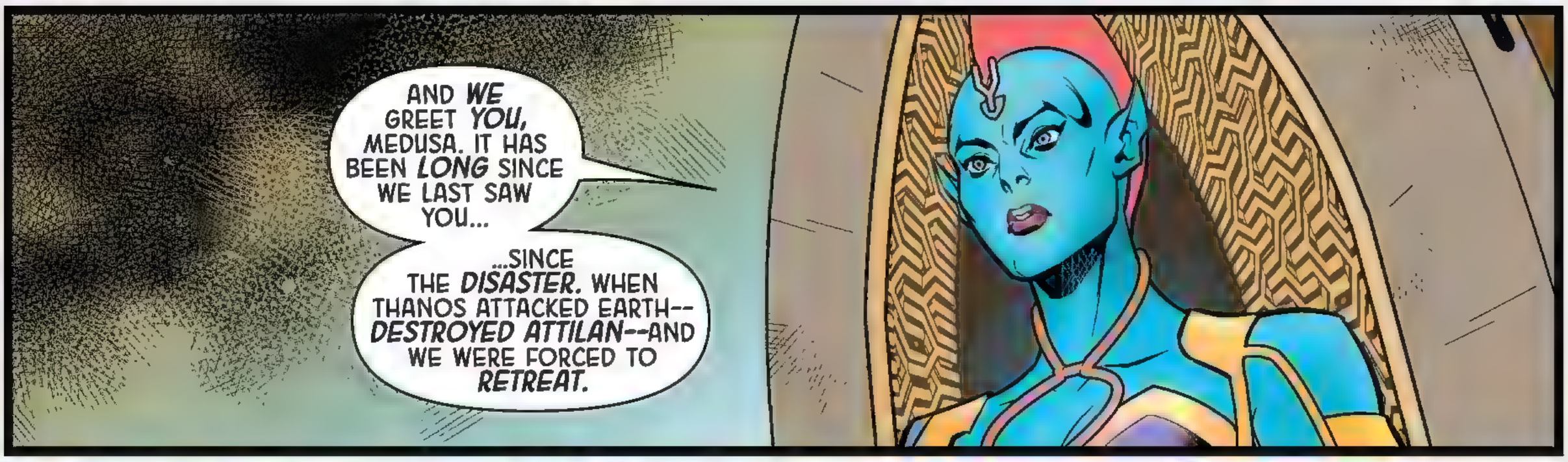
KIN BY THE *STARS.*

FOR WE WERE ALL OF US RECIPIENTS OF THE GREAT *GIFT* OF THE *KREE.*

ALL *EXPERIMENTED* ON. ALL *CHANGED* INTO SOMETHING *GREATER* THAN THE REST OF OUR SPECIES.

AND IN THE *SPIRIT* OF THAT GIFT, THAT *CHANGE*...I *GREET* YOU, MY SISTERS.

THE *FOUR QUEENS* FOR THE *ONE KING*...


AND WE GREET YOU, MEDUSA. IT HAS BEEN LONG SINCE WE LAST SAW YOU...
...SINCE THE DISASTER. WHEN THANOS ATTACKED EARTH--DESTROYED ATTILAN--AND WE WERE FORCED TO RETREAT.

OUR OWN WORLDS WILL NOT ALLOW OUR RETURN.
WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CREATE A NEW NEW HALA, HERE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE GODLESS AKUUN.
DO YOU COME TO JOIN US IN OUR EXILE?

SOMETHING IS ALTERED IN YOU. IT DOES NOT TAKE MY HIGHER SENSES TO KNOW IT.
QUEEN NO MORE...

WHERE, THEN, ISSS THE KING, NOT-QUEEN MEDUSSSA?
WHERE ISSS OUR HUSSSBAND?
WHERE ISSS BLACK BOLT?

GONE.
CHAINED AND DAMNED IN A HELL FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN. HIS CROWN BROKEN--KING NO MORE.
AND, MY SISTERS...
...I DID IT.

WHAT?

I DID IT.
AND I--
→KAFF←--

→KAFF←
→HHHAAAACCHH←
→KHHAHHH←

--I AM PAYING FOR IT.
SOON... I WILL DIE FOR IT.

YOU... IMPRISSSONED THE MIDNIGHT KING?

BECAUSE OF THIS ONE. HIS TRICKS. HIS SCHEMES.
SO HE IS MINE NOW. WHEN I DIE--
ACK--
--HE DIES, TOO.

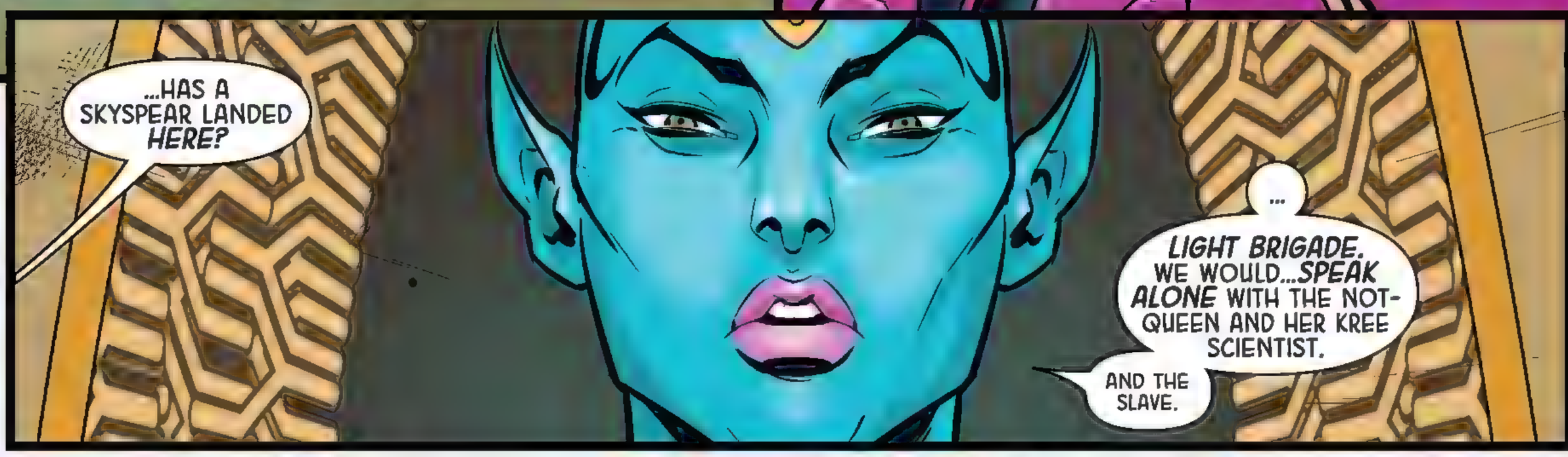
WHAT?
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
QUIET.

ONE DEATH? AND ANOTHER PROMISED?
DO YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH, NOT-QUEEN?

NO. I THINK THIS IS.
NOH-VARR?

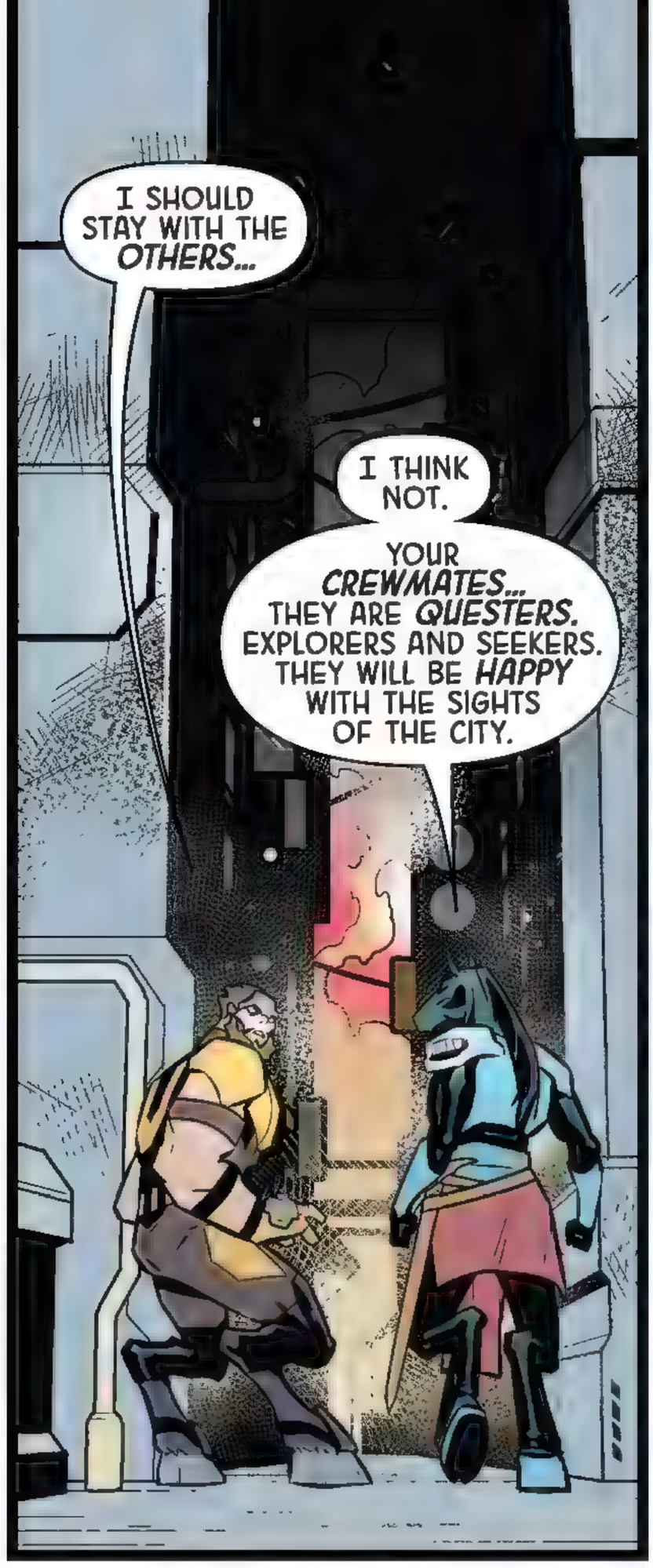
IT'S CALLED A SKYSPEAR.
IT FALLS FROM HEAVEN-- AND IT TAKES CONTROL OF INHUMANS. MAKES THEM MORE THAN THEY ARE.
AND WE BELIEVE IT WAS SENT BY...AH...
BY THE GODS.

AND I DON'T MEAN THE KREE. THESE THINGS ARE A LEGEND EVEN TO THEM.
THE KREE ENGINEERED US-- BUT SOMEONE ENGINEERED THE KREE FIRST. THEIR PROGENITORS.
AND WHOEVER THEY ARE...THEY HAVE SOMETHING I WANT.
SO TELL ME, LADY OF THE MOORD...


...HAS A SKYSPEAR LANDED HERE?
...
LIGHT BRIGADE. WE WOULD...SPEAK ALONE WITH THE NOT-QUEEN AND HER KREE SCIENTIST.
AND THE SLAVE.

"GIVE HER PEOPLE THE TOUR."
UH...IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?
OH, THEY WON'T KILL HER. OR THE CHAINED ONE.
MOST LIKELY.

WARRIOR.
COME WITH ME.


I SHOULD STAY WITH THE *OTHERS...*
I THINK NOT.
YOUR *CREWMATES...* THEY ARE *QUESTERS.* EXPLORERS AND SEEKERS. THEY WILL BE *HAPPY* WITH THE SIGHTS OF THE CITY.

BUT YOU...YOU ARE A *WARRIOR,* MY FRIEND. LIKE *ME.*
AND IT TAKES A WARRIOR TO KNOW A WARRIOR'S *PAIN--*
AHH...

NO. NOT *"AHH."*
I *KNOW* YOU STALLIONS OF EARTH--YOU THINK IT IS *BRAVE* TO LET YOUR THOUGHTS *FESTER* AND YOUR *SOUL* ROT AWAY.
BUT YOU ARE NOT ON EARTH *NOW.*

SO *COME!* WE WILL *GO* SOMEWHERE, YOU AND I, AND WE WILL DRINK THE MILK OF THE *SUN MARE!*
YOU WILL TELL ME YOUR PAIN, AND I WILL *HEAR* IT, AND BEAR IT *WITH* YOU FOR A TIME.

AND WE WILL SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR EXPLORERS WITH A *HAPPY HEART.*
...
A HAPPY HEART.

WARRIOR?

IT'S JUST...JUST MY *BACK.*

I WAS SHOT THROUGH THE *SPINE.* I KNOW A GOOD *HEALER*-- THAT'S HOW I CAN *WALK*-- BUT THERE WAS ONLY SO MUCH SHE COULD DO.

IT *HURTS.* EVERY *DAY,* ESPECIALLY IN THE COLD AND THE WET.

NOT USUALLY-- THIS--

--THIS *BAD*--BUT-- *AARRH!*

--IT'LL *PASS*-- IT'LL--

CAN'T-- GET *UP*--
WHY CAN'T I GET UP?
IS IT YOUR *HEART?* IS IT *SEIZING?*
MY HEART...

MY HEART-- *HURTS*--
FEELS LIKE-- BEING *CRUSHED*-- WEIGHED DOWN--
EVERYTHING HURTS--I CAN'T--

CAN'T *BREATHE*--
MEDIC! WE NEED A MEDIC HERE!
THIS WARRIOR NEEDS *URGENT CARE*--

OH?
THEN WE WILL TAKE *CARE* OF HIM.

AMBUSH.

THE OLDEST ENEMY...AND ARMED...
COME, THEN, COLD-BLOODS! COME TASTE YOUR DEATH, ON THE EDGE OF THE MIDNIGHT--
--NYEEIIGGHHH!
FOOL.
THIS IS PRINCE HYINAR, CALLING THE NEST. WE HAVE ONE CAPTIVE--READY FOR POWER TRANSFER.
THERE WAS ALSO A KYMELLIAN. HE USED A BLADE, SO...YES, LIKELY UNPOWERED.
AND THUS, SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS.
INFORM MOTHER--HER SCIENTISTS WERE CORRECT.

THIS IS A WEAPONWORLD.
SNARKWAR BEGINS!
TO BE CONTINUED...

ROYAL MAIL

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM marked "OKAY TO PRINT."

Welcome back to the Royal Mail! This month, we've got some throwbacks for you. This issue references a lot of Inhuman and Kree history, and we're betting some of you newer fans could use a primer. So:

THE UNIVERSAL INHUMANS are aliens from across the universe who were also genetically altered by the Kree. Like the Inhumans of Earth, the Universal Inhumans use catalysts to trigger their abilities and transformations; each race has its own catalyst and method.

The Inhumans first learned of their kin from the stars in FANTASTIC FOUR #577, collected in FANTASTIC FOUR BY JONATHAN HICKMAN VOL. 1. A Kree prophecy promised that a Midnight King would rise to destroy the Kree. To stop it, the Supreme Intelligence ordered the genocide of the Universal Inhumans; only four races escaped. They are led by: Oola Udonta of the Centaurians, Aladi Ko Eke of the Badoon, Onomi Whitemane of the Kymellians, and Avoe of the Dire Wraiths. To cement the kinship between their species and strengthen the Inhumans against the new Kree threat, Black Bolt married each of the Universal Inhumans' representatives, though Medusa remains his one true love.

Then Black Bolt led the Inhumans to war with the Kree—and won. To unite the people, Crystal and Ronan married (see WAR OF KINGS). Their political alignment eventually became love, but then the Supreme Intelligence returned. Black Bolt and the Intelligence brokered a peace—under the condition that Ronan return to the Kree as the Supreme Accuser, ending his marriage to Crystal and the Inhumans' reign over the Kree. That went down in FF (2011) #21.

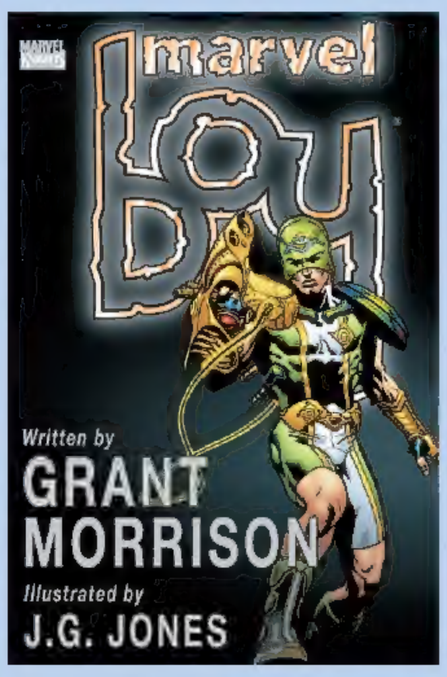
The Universal Inhumans fled Earth when the Mad Titan Thanos invaded in a bloody search for his half-Inhuman son, Thane. For more on that saga, check out NEW AVENGERS #7 and INFINITY TPB.

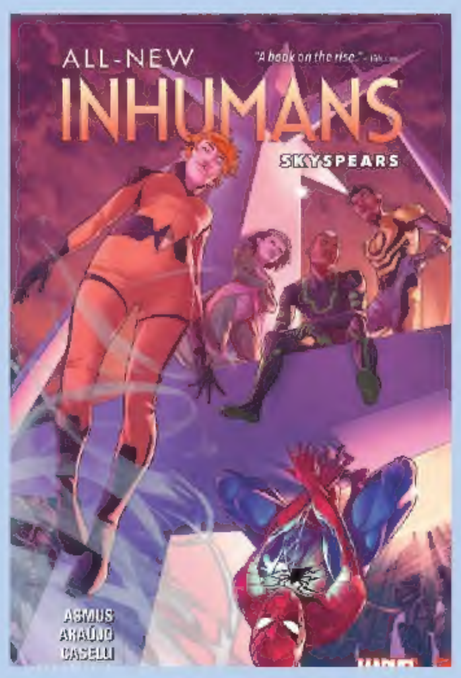
THE PLEX is a version of the Supreme Intelligence from Marvel Boy's home dimension. Its database houses the accumulated knowledge of the entire Kree race, and can connect telepathically to Marvel Boy. The Plex was corrupted by the Midas Corporation, and Marvel Boy was forced to destroy it, retaining only a seed of it, which he planted last issue. For the full details, check out MARVEL BOY TPB.

THE SKYSPEARS are colossal obelisks of unknown origin and purpose. Several landed on Earth near large population centers and have remained there, unmoving. When Inhumans come too close, they are possessed and immediately attack others in close proximity, seemingly to protect the Skyspear. For more, look for ALL-NEW INHUMANS VOL. 2: SKYSPEARS TPB.

The lizard-like creatures who have taken Gorgon prisoner are **ZN'RX,** a.k.a. **SNARKS,** a warlike alien race obsessed with stealing super-powers. They tried to steal the abilities of four children collectively known as Power Pack, but failed. That story can be found in POWER PACK CLASSIC VOL. 3 TPB.

And finally, if you're wondering how **GORGON** got that back injury, you'll find the details in INHUMAN HC. He was healed by Swain's girlfriend Ash in ALL-NEW INHUMANS #11.





ROYALS

NEXT: ROYALS #7

AND FOR MORE INHUMANS, CHECK OUT:

ZONE